

to extend this measure in five-year segments until the year 2000. In this way, we wish to help in providing all the countries of sub-Saharan Africa that face serious external payments difficulties, and that have demonstrated a commitment to undertake necessary economic adjustment, the room to manoeuvre that they need to put their economies back on a solid foundation.

On a country-by-country basis, we are prepared to immediately begin discussing the application of this measure within the framework of World Bank Consultative Groups or in other appropriate forums.

This measure is a modest one, but it is practical and concrete. It is meant to reinforce the support that the international community will provide to the countries which are making efforts to adjust. We hope that other countries will adopt similar measures.

The second measure that I wish to announce relates to the lessons that we have drawn from the food crisis in Africa. Over the past two years it has been evident to us that Africa's greatest strength lies in the determination, courage, and experience of its people. It is the Africans themselves who are the masters and the architects of their future.

Our involvement in the emergency operations of the past two years has shown us that the villages, local communities, volunteer agencies and non-governmental organizations can play a strategic part in mobilizing Africa's human energies and involving them in the continent's own development. In Canada's Africa 2000 program, I announced our objective of introducing 2000 small cooperation projects in Africa from now to the end of 1987. Our very first partners in this undertaking will be Canada's voluntary organizations, which explains why their representatives are here as official members of our delegation.

In the same line of thinking, Canada is proposing at this session to create a new mechanism within the multilateral aid system. Its role would be to make available to local communities, village councils and volunteer organizations in Africa, funds and technical expertise to help them to carry out projects of their own choosing to meet their needs in the fields of desertification, conservation of ground cover, and food production. We are convinced that this new approach deserves our best efforts.